Fort Donelson National Battlefield

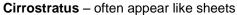


Natural Resources – Basic Cloud Types

Clouds are formed from tiny water or ice particles in the atmosphere, and are typically named in Latin for their height in the sky, attributes, and/or their overall vertical growth. Here at Fort Donelson, visitors can see many cloud types throughout the year. Many types of clouds can be visible just within a few hours. Below you will find descriptions of a few cloud types. *Check* the box next to the picture if you see any of these cloud types during your visit.

High Level clouds typically begin with the word "cirro" or "cirrus". These include cirrus clouds, cirrostratus, and cirrocumulus. (normally seen around 18,000 to 20,000 feet or above)







Cirrocumulus - cotton like



Middle Level clouds have "alto" in their names. Altostratus and altocumulus are shown below. (visible at 6,500 to around 20,000 feet)

Altostratus – sheet-like and often gravish



Altocumulus – cotton like and often grayish



Low Level clouds include both the stratus, cumulus, and stratocumulus formations. (at or below 6,500 feet)

Stratus – often forms a fairly continuous layer **Cumulus** – generally puffy

Stratocumulus - cumulus flattening







Vertical Growth clouds can vary, but the one you should always look out for is the cumulonimbus. This type of cloud formation often indicates a developing or developed thunderstorm that can generate high winds, contain lightening, bring heavy rain, hail, and even tornadoes.

> Cumulonimbus - towering cloud, often anvil-shaped, and can have an overshooting top as the one pictured here

